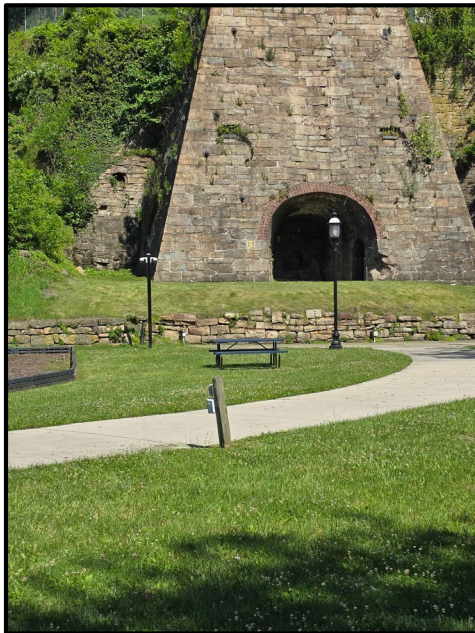


Community Parks & Playgrounds Program FY2028 Workshop



Who to Contact – Land Acquisition and Planning (LAP) Administrators



Tiffany DePaoli | tiffanyr.depaoli@maryland.gov | 667-270-0786

Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Garrett, Harford and St. Mary's

Michael McQuarrie | michael.mcquarrie@maryland.gov | 410-279-8147

Caroline, Dorchester, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester

Kate Mayberry | kate.mayberry@maryland.gov | 443-883-5800

Anne Arundel, Cecil, Howard, Kent, Washington, Frederick and Baltimore City

Questions regarding project eligibility?

Contact your Program Administrator in advance to review project eligibility and, if needed, to review the required attachments.

Community Parks & Playgrounds (CPP)



The **CPP** program is an annual competitive award for incorporated municipalities to assist in the acquisition and/or development of recreational land or open space for public use.

- \$2.5 million annually. May be up to \$5 million, subject to budget appropriations.
- Reimbursement-based award. The applicant will complete the project as proposed and submit for reimbursement to receive payment.
 - **Photos of the completed project and CPP acknowledgement sign are required in order to receive final reimbursement.**
- Applicants may request up to 100% of applicable project costs.
- These are capital funds and cannot be used for operating and maintenance costs. Applicants are responsible for the project upkeep.
- Development projects have a minimum 20-year lifespan and acquisitions are in perpetuity.

Accessibility and Public Use:

Projects shall be open to entry and use by all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, or ancestry or national origin, and shall be operated in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Projects shall be open for public use at all reasonable hours and times of the year, according to the type of area and facility.



Important Dates and General Timeline



- **June 2026:** Administrators notify municipalities of the FY26 CPP submission opening
- **June 23, 2026 at 11 am and July 23, 2026 at 4 pm:** CPP Workshops led by LAP team Administrators
- **Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at 3:00 pm:** Complete CPP application(s) and required documents due to DNR.

Incomplete or late applications may not be considered for funding.

Email all materials to: laplocalgrants.dnr@maryland.gov

- **Late January/early February 2027:** The first draft of the FY28 budget will be posted online. This is NOT final but can be reviewed to see which projects are included. The budget may be changed and municipalities cannot start work until a final notification is sent from your Administrator.
- **May/June 2027:** Municipalities receive notifications for projects included and those not included in the FY28 Capital Budget. Please wait to receive notification from your Administrator regarding your submitted project's funding, even if the project has been included in the proposed Capital Budget. Costs incurred prior to notification will not be reimbursed.
- **After July 1, 2027:** CPP projects included in the FY28 Capital Budget can be scheduled for a Board of Public Works meeting for review and approval.

CPP By The Numbers



FY26 Community Parks & Playgrounds

Total projects received: 51

Total dollar amount: \$10,596,273

Projects funded: 27, \$5 million



FY27 Community Parks & Playgrounds

Total projects received: 59

Total dollar amount: \$15,191,186

Projects funded: 26, \$5 million

Since 2002, over 900 park and playground projects have been approved totaling close to \$100 million!

Project Proposal and Submission Process



To submit your CPP project application:

1. ***Complete*** a Community Parks and Playgrounds Program Application and Project Agreement for each project.
2. ***Assemble*** all required documents (ie: application, maps, photos, local planning letter etc).
3. ***Sign and date*** the Declaration of Adherence to Award Conditions/Requirements and Local Government Authorization.
4. ***Email*** the entire CPP packet with attachments to: laplocalgrants.dnr@maryland.gov

General Review and Selection Process:

- DNR staff review and evaluate based on: consistency with the CPP program purpose, eligibility and criteria, applicant responses and the status of any previously awarded grants.
- DNR staff will make recommendations for grant selections for possible inclusion in the Governor's Budget proposal. Once the budget is approved and the fiscal year begins, selected projects will be submitted for State Clearinghouse review and to the Board of Public Works for final approval.

CPP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Q. Who is eligible to apply for the CPP grant?

Only governing bodies of municipal corporations and Baltimore City are eligible to apply for the CPP grant. Applicants should be able to demonstrate the capacity to plan, implement and maintain the project for a minimum of 20 years.

Q. Can a homeowners association (HOA) or nonprofit organization apply for the CPP grant?

No, HOAs and nonprofit organizations cannot directly apply for the CPP grant. If the potential project is located within the boundaries of a municipal corporation of the state or Baltimore City, the HOA or nonprofit organization may partner with the municipality in project sponsorship and implementation. Note that the project must be open and available to all users, not just the residents of the HOA or any specific interest group.



CPP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Q. Can the project take place on property not owned by the municipality?

Yes, if the project is within the municipal corporation's jurisdiction and the municipality holds the rights to develop on the property.

The rights may be in the form of an easement, a long term lease with more than 20 years remaining in the term and no termination for convenience clause, or a project-specific Joint Use Agreement. Review and verification of these documents will be necessary to determine eligibility.



CPP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Q. What type projects are eligible for CPP funding?

Projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

- Development of new parks;
- Rehabilitation, expansion or improvement of existing parks;
- Purchase and install playground equipment;
- Development of environmentally oriented parks and recreation projects;
- Development of new trails or extension of existing trails;
- Creation of access points to water recreation resources; or
- Acquisition of land to create new parks or expand existing parks.

Past CPP projects included tennis court construction, new playgrounds, pavilion construction, splash pads, skate parks, trail construction, ballfield restorations and restroom facilities.



CPP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Q. Is there a minimum or maximum grant amount we can request?

There is no established minimum or maximum grant amounts but keep in mind that this is a competitive grant and the available funds must be awarded to projects across the state. The grant funds requested should be for a capital project for park facilities or elements that will last for a minimum of 20 years.

Q. We want to do a large project and may need multiple fund sources to complete the work. Can we apply for Program Open Space (POS) Local funds and/or other grants in addition to the CPP grant?

Yes, but CPP is a competitive grant so funding is not guaranteed. Also, CPP grants are for prospective projects so the project cannot have already been started prior to the funds being awarded.

If the applicant is also using POS Local funds, local matching funds will be required on the POS portion given the POS Local grant requirement.



CPP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

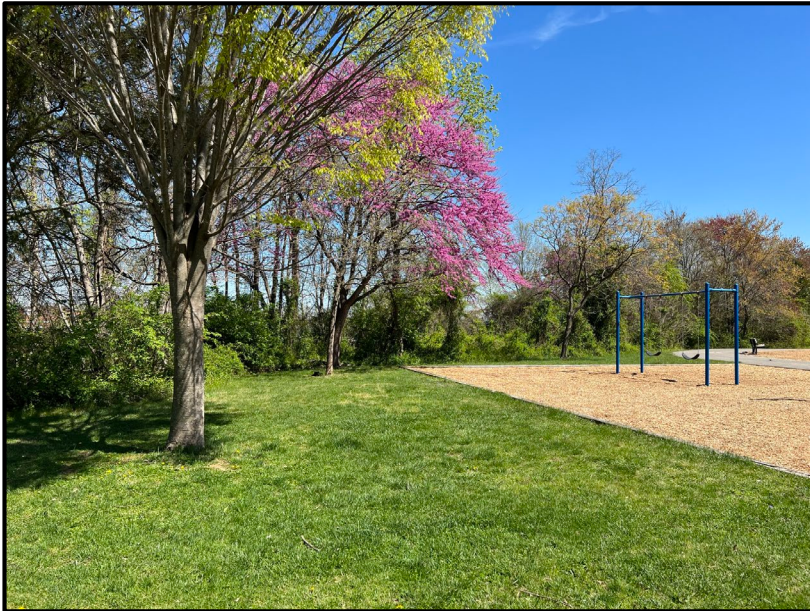


Q. Can we make a change to the scope of our project after it has been selected for funding?

Selected projects must be completed as proposed at the location stated in the application. Considerations may be made for minor changes that would not affect the overall scope of the project. Large scale changes would not be approved and associated costs may not be reimbursed.

Q. Can we make a change to the amount requested for our project after it has been selected for funding to adjust for inflation or contingencies?

Applicants should make the best effort to provide a realistic cost estimate for the project. Since CPP is a competitive grant where all available funds are awarded to a number of projects, there are no available additional funds for contingencies or inflation after selection.



CPP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Q. Can we use the remaining funds in our grant for another project?

No. CPP grant funds must be used for the project as approved by the Board of Public Works. If all the elements as proposed have been completed and there are funds remaining in the grant, additional elements consistent with the approved project may be added at the same location. **The remaining funds may not be used for a different project or at another location and therefore must be reverted back to the CPP program.**

Q. Is there a limit to the number of CPP project applications our municipality may submit?

No. There is no limit to the number of CPP projects a municipality may submit for consideration. Keep in mind that because the CPP is open to all eligible municipal governments across the state, when you submit more than one application you are competing against the other municipalities and your municipality's other project applications.



CPP Application Packet Review & Questions



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Thank you for your time!



**Best of luck with your FY28
Community Parks & Playgrounds
submissions!**

